

principles or its ideals—that a political party is ultimately judged. It is not upon them or any of them that its measure of success in the continued appeal to the judgment of the average citizen finally depends. The success of the Labour Party in this country depends, more than anything else, upon the spirit in which we hold our faith, the spirit in which we present our proposals, the spirit in which we meet our opponents in debate, the spirit in which we fulfil our obligations, the spirit in which, with inevitable back-slidings, we live our own lives. We shall not achieve much, whatever changes we can bring about, unless what we do is done in the spirit of fellowship. For we must always remember that the founder of British Socialism was not Karl Marx, but Robert Owen, and that Robert Owen preached not 'class war' but the ancient doctrine of human brotherhood—the hope, the faith, the living fact of human fellowship—a faith and hope re-affirmed in the words of that other great British Socialist, William Morris "

What he says here about fellowship was most seriously meant. Both he and Mrs Webb, at this time, and indeed throughout his parliamentary period, were giving a great deal of their time to sociability, with a view to strengthening the internal cohesion of the party, and making it, if possible, into something like a real comradeship. There were difficult cross-currents to stem, of which those represented by Clydeside suspensions in the House, and attacks by the so-called Left wing on the leadership, out of it, were merely the most spectacular permeation, by the right kind of ideas, as necessary as ever, if its field was somewhat changed. On this, Grosvenor Road was busy. If dinners were seldom possible, owing to parliamentary engagements, lunches could be, and were, organised. Much of

this effort
was thwarted by the fact that the party as a
whole, and its
leader in particular, showed a great aversion
to being
organised

Bernard Shaw, in one of his letters to Ellen
Terry, suggests
that if she would come down and join the
group in Surrey
with which he was then holidaying, she could
be "Rich,
with Mrs Webb to arrange you"¹ The "arrangement/'